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(54) **Method of preparing and using phytochemicals**

(57) A composition is prepared by extracting phytochemicals from plant matter. This composition is enriched preferably in isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and phenolic acids. Soy is the preferred source

of these chemicals; however, other plants may also be used, such as red clover, kudzu, flax, and cocoa. The composition is a dietary supplement for treatment of various cancers, pre- and post-menstrual syndromes, and various other disorders.

Description

[0001] This is a formal application that replaces provisional application Serial No. 60/060,549 filed October 2, 1997.

5 [0002] This invention relates to compositions extracted from vegetable matter and more particularly to phytochemicals, including saponogenins and saponins, catechins, lignans, phenolic acids, catechins and isoflavones, and especially those extracted from a family of plants including soy, flax, tea, and cocoa and methods of using these compositions as nutritional supplements or food additives.

BACKGROUND

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[0003] Plant materials are known to contain a number of classes of organic low molecular weight compounds which exert bioactivity in various animals. Historically, these compounds have been considered to be somewhat non-nutritive; however, recent scientific evidence now suggests these compounds may play an important role in the maintenance of health, in chemoprevention, and in the mitigation of certain conditions or diseases associated with the circulation of sex hormones, including sleep disorders and vaginal dryness.

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[0004] Edible plants normally contained in the diet, or materials used as herbal remedies/dietary supplements, may contain collections of structurally related compounds. These related substances are often unique in their amounts and distribution when compared among various plant sources. The most notable groups of compounds exhibiting bioactivity are known as flavonoids, isoflavones, saponins, lignans, alkaloids, catechins and phenolic acids.

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[0005] Epidemiology studies relating diet to disease suggest that dietary components may predispose populations to reduced risk of certain diseases. Far eastern populations consuming soy have reduced rates of breast, prostate and colon cancers and coronary heart disease, while populations in Finland have reduced rates of prostate cancer. Researchers are just now studying the specific compounds in the diet to understand the basis for the epidemiological observations.

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[0006] Among the various plants consumed in the diet, several are rich sources of phytochemicals. Soy products contain high amounts of isoflavones and saponins. Unrefined diet grains include plants such as wheat, psyllium, rice, flax and oats that contain lignans. Cocoa contains catechins and phenolic acids. Certain non-dietary plants are also sources of the same chemical molecules, such as lignans and isoflavones in kudzu root or red clovers. Isoflavones and lignans act as weak estrogenic substances. Tea plants are also a rich source of phytochemicals, including catechins and phenolic acids.

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[0007] Isoflavones can be used alone to treat or prevent breast cancer, prostate cancer, skin cancer, and colon cancer or as mechanism inhibitors. Isoflavones alone may also reduce or prevent various symptoms related to the onset and duration of menopause, including hot flashes and osteoporosis. Isoflavones alone may also be effective in certain cardiovascular applications, including heart disease, reducing cholesterol-lipid levels, modulating angiogenesis, and other vascular effects. Moreover, isoflavones alone have been implicated in reducing headaches, dementia, inflammation, and alcohol abuse, as well as immunomodulation.

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[0008] Lignans alone have been implicated in preventing or beating breast cancer, prostate cancer and colon cancer as well as reducing hot flashes, preventing osteoporosis and showing antiviral potential. Lignans also have antimitotic and fungicidal activity. A plant lignan, the catecholic nordihydro-guaiaretic acid, was a potent antioxidant once used by the food industry.

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[0009] Saponins alone have been implicated in preventing or treating skin cancer, colon cancer, reducing serum cholesterol, and in immunomodulation and antiviral activity. Saponins also exhibit antioxidant effects and act as free radical scavengers.

[0010] Phenolic acids have shown antioxidant activity.

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[0011] People who eat a high soy diet show reduction of many of these above-discussed symptoms. This suggests that ingesting a combination of these phytochemicals in a ratio such as that found in soy may result in an additive or synergistic effect. However, a high soy diet has some undesirable effects, including flatulence, undesirable taste, and hesitancy among Western consumers to change their lifestyle to incorporate soy in their diets, even for such benefits.

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[0012] Isoflavones, which are heterocyclic phenols, are understood to include the soy compounds genistin, daidzin and glycitein, as well as biochanin A, equol, formononetin, and o-desmethylangolensin and natural derivatives thereof. These compounds and their aglycone or de-methylated aglycone forms, such as genistein and daidzein, are believed to have similar activities once they are ingested. They are sometimes referred to as phytoestrogens.

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[0013] Lignans are defined to be compounds possessing a 2,3-dibenzylbutane structure. They include matairesinol, secoisolaricinesinol, lariciresinol, isolariciresinol, nordihydroguaiaretic acid, pinoresinol, olivil, other compounds which may be precursors of enterolactone and enterodiol and modifications thereof, including diglucosides.

[0014] Phenolic acids include p-hydrobenzoic acid, protocatechuic acid, and vanillic acid. Other phenolic acids are chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, ferulic acid, gallic acid, sinapic acid, syringic acid, coumaric acid, cinnamic acid, gentisic acid, salicylic acid, hydroxy benzoic acid and hydroxy phenyl acetic acids and derivatives. This list of phenolic acids

should be understood to include the various isomers and derivatives found in the natural vegetable source.

[0015] Catechins, or flavan-3-ols, include epigallocatechin, catechin, epicatechin and gallocatechin.

[0016] Saponogenins are C-27 sterols in which the side chain has undergone metabolic changes to produce a spiroketal. Saponogenins occur naturally as saponins, which are 3-O-glycosides of the parent steroid or triterpenes. Digitonin from *Digitalis* is a saponin. Saponins include glucosides of sapogenin such as triterpenoids or steroids and saccharides such as glucose, arabinose, galactose or glucuronic acid. Typical examples of leguminous saponins are glycyrrhizin (glycyrrhetic acid + glucuronic acid) contained in *Glycyrrhiza glabra*, soysaponin contained in soybean and alfalfasaponin contained in *Medicago sativa*. Saponins also include chemical entities identified as triterpene phenols such as tomatine, soyasapogenols A, B, C, D, E and F, ginsenoside fraction 3 and 4, medicagenic acid, hederagenin, glycyrrhizin digitonin, quillaja saponin, lucernic acid and zahnic acid. The natural modifications of these compounds found in the vegetable source are also included in this identification.

[0017] A need exists for an improved composition consisting substantially of isoflavones, lignans, saponogenins, saponins, and/or phenolic acids which will produce improved results over any of these taken alone. Furthermore, a need exists for a composition in which the beneficial phytochemicals are enriched as compared to their original source. This permits individuals to conveniently consume such phytochemicals as a nutritional supplement or as a food additive.

Summary of the Invention

[0018] An object of this invention is to provide a convenient way for individuals to consume isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and/or phenolic acids, either as a nutritional supplement or as an ingredient in a more traditional type of food.

[0019] An other object of this invention is to provide an optimized extract composition of phytochemicals which is in sufficient concentration to be delivered in an easy to consume dosage such as a pill, tablet, capsule, liquid or ingredient in a food.

[0020] Yet another object of this invention is to prepare the phytochemical extract to be delivered as a topical application in cream or lotion. In this form, the isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and/or phenolic acids are dispersed and suspended in a suitable liquid or gel matrix to render a stable cream or lotion as the delivery vehicle.

[0021] A further object of this invention is to provide an extract concentrate which is closely similar in chemical composition to the chemical entities found in the natural plant source.

[0022] In keeping with this aspect of the invention, the isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and/or phenolic acids are extracted from a suitable vegetable source to render a composition which is substantially more concentrated than the original material and by more than 5 times in one or more of the desired bioactive components.

[0023] This extract may be used alone or combined with one or more other plant extracts to produce the optimized composition. Further, this extract composition may be formulated with one or more other dietary nutrients, such as vitamins, minerals, amino acids, etc., to provide a nutritional supplement further optimized for a desired health effect. All these ingredients may be combined with necessary binders, excipients, preservatives, colors and the like known to those in the industry in order to produce a suitable tablet, capsule, pill, liquid, cream, powder or food ingredient.

[0024] These phytochemicals may be packaged and provided in final form by means known to the supplements and food ingredient industries. The materials are intended to provide health and well-being benefits.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0025] The improved composition is obtained by fractionating a plant source high in isoflavones, lignans and other phytochemicals such as defatted soybean flakes, soy molasses, soy whey, red clover, alfalfa, flax, cocoa, tea, or kudzu root. These may be fractionated along or in combination with these other plants known to be high in the various isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and phenolic acids. The fractionation results in substantially removing water, carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids from the source material. The fractionation method may be preferably that disclosed in co-pending U.S. Patent No. 5,702,752 or U.S. Patent No. 4,428,876, or an extraction using ethyl acetate or n-butanol may be used. U.S. Patent No. 5,702,752 is assigned to the assignee of this invention.

[0026] Other extraction processes, which may be used alone or in combination, include differential solubility, distillation, solvent extraction, adsorptive means, differential molecular filtration and precipitation.

[0027] The preferred composition is an improvement over known commercial materials regarding the amount of phytochemicals per gram of substance and the amounts of different phytochemicals present which affect physiologic function.

[0028] These natural substances have been consumed in food sources for long periods of time and more closely relate to the substances consumed which provide the basis for the epidemiological evidence for health benefits. Additional benefits may be derived from improved physical properties relative to phytochemicals chemically modified from their original food source form.

[0029] The resulting composition is expected to comprise in a preferred form: between 5% and 95% isoflavones, between 0% and 70% lignans, and between 2% and 70% saponins and sapogenins. In a more preferred form, the composition will be extracted from soy. In another preferred form, the composition will contain a ratio of (saponins plus saponogenins) to isoflavones from 1:100 to 100:1, with the isoflavones consisting predominantly of naturally occurring derivatives of genistein and/or its precursor biochanin A and daidzein and/or its precursor formononetin, with a ratio of the genistein derivatives to daidzein derivatives from 100:1 to 1:100. Preferably, the isoflavones are predominantly glycosylated derivatives.

[0030] The composition's ratios may be readily varied by changing the plant source or by combining several plant sources for extraction. Thus, as further study shows which phytochemical combinations are more efficacious for certain health effects, the particular composition will also vary.

[0031] It is known that isoflavones, lignans, and saponins can be used advantageously to treat or prevent various cancers, including breast cancer, prostate cancer, skin cancer, and colon cancer.

[0032] It is believed that the improved composition will provide increased benefits in the form of chemoprevention. Recent experiments appear to confirm this belief.

EXAMPLE 1

[0033] An initial series of animal studies was made to investigate the effects of dietary soy products on the growth of s.c. (SUBCUTANEOUS) implanted LNCaP in male SCID mice. A high isoflavone-containing soy protein isolate (SPI) (2.0 mg isoflavones/g SPI) is provided by Protein Technology International (St. Louis, MO). A soy phytochemicals extract, soy phytochemicals concentrate (SPC) which contains 28.5% total soy isoflavones and a diverse amount of other soy phytochemicals, is provided by Archer Daniels Midland Company (Decatur, IL). These materials were used to prepare six experimental diets. Table I shows ingredients of the diets.

[0034] Eight-week-old male SCID mice were s.c. injected on the right flank with 2×10^6 LNCaP cells from hosts, randomized into six groups (n=10) and assigned to one of the experimental diets. Food intake, body weight, and tumor volume were measured. At the termination of the experiment, blood samples were collected and serum separated for PSA analysis. An aliquot of tumor tissues was formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded, and cut into 4 μ m sections for *in situ* histochemical detection of apoptotic cells, and immunohistochemical analyses of angiogenesis and proliferation. Another aliquot was prepared for cell lysates for western blot to determine the expression of apoptosis-related gene products.

[0035] Table 2 summarizes the effects of treatment on food intake, body weight, isoflavone intake and tumor volume. Soy products did not significantly alter food intake or body weight. Compared to casein-fed controls, tumor volumes from mice treated with SPI (20%), SPC (1.0%), and SPI and SPC (1.0%) were reduced by 12%, 28% ($P < 0.04$), or 40% ($P < 0.005$), respectively. Factorial analysis indicated that there was no significant effect of protein source on tumor growth. Linear regression analysis indicated that tumor volumes were inversely correlated to total dietary isoflavones (Tumor volume (cm^3) = $-0.0008 + 2.121 \times \text{Isoflavones (mg)}$, $R^2 = 0.76$, $p < 0.03$).

[0036] Table 3 shows the effects of SPC at 1.0% of the diet on apoptosis, proliferation, and angiogenesis of tumors from a pilot study. It indicates that dietary supplementation of soy phytochemicals inhibits the growth of LNCaP tumor *in vivo* by enhancing apoptosis and inhibiting proliferation of tumor cells. Its inhibitory effect on tumor angiogenesis is not significant which may be due to small sample size (n=2).

[0037] Results from *in vitro* study showed that genistein and soy phytochemical concentrate inhibited secretion of PSA by LNCaP cells into media. PSA concentrations were reduced 68% and 74% by 25 and 50 μ M of genistein treatment respectively, and 31% and 42% by 25 and 50 μ M of soy phytochemical concentrate treatment respectively.

Table 1. Ingredients of experimental diets (grams)

| | Diet 1 casein | Diet 2 SPI | Diet 3 Casein/LSPC | Diet 4 SPI/LSPC | Diet 5 Casein/HSPC | Diet 6 SPI/HSP |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| SPI | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| Casein | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 200 | 0 |
| DL-methionine | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Corn starch | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| Sucrose | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Cellulose, BW230 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Corn oil | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Mineral Mix, S1000 ¹ | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Vitamin Mix, V1000 ¹ | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Choline Bitartrate | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Soy phytochemicals | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 10 |
| Total (g) | 1000 | 1000 | 1002 | 1002 | 1010 | 010 |
| (isoflavones, mg/kg diet) | 0 | 245 | 341 | 586 | 705 | 950 |

¹ AIN formulation with minor modification by Dr. E. A. Ulman, Research Diets, Inc.

Table 2.

| Final body weight, total food intake, total isoflavone intake, and tumor volume | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Treatment | Body weight | Food intake grams/m | Total isoflavone | Tumor volume (cm ³) |
| Casein | 22.4±0.5 ¹ | 46.6±3.1 | 0.00±0.00 | 2.32±0.31 ² |
| SPI | 23.1±0.7 | 46.2±2.8 | 17.00±6.37 | 2.06±0.32 |
| Casein/LSPC | 21.4±0.7 | 41.2±3.4 | 14.03±14 | 1.88±0.35 |
| SPI/LSPC | 22.6±0.6 | 50.1±4.7 | 29.36±2.76 | 1.66±0.29* |
| Casein/HSPC | 22.2±0.7 | 44.8±6.1 | 76.38±10.40 | 1.64±0.22* |
| SPI/HSPC | 22.0±0.6 | 47.5±1.7 | 92.53±3.22 | 1.39±0.30** |

¹ Values are means ± SE. There are no significant differences of food intake or body weight among treatment groups.

² Compared with control group. SPI/LSPC, casein/HSPC, and SPI/HSPC had significantly smaller tumor volumes (* : p<0.04; ** : p<0.005).

Table 3.

| Effects of treatment on apoptotic index (AI, % TUNEL), proliferation index (PI, % PCNA Staining) and angiogenesis (microvessel density) | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Treatment | AI (% TUNEL) | PI (%PCNA) | Microvessel Density |
| Control (n=2) | 6.07±0.88 | 60.1±1.1 | 12.5±3.8 |
| Casein/HSPC (n=2) | 10.75±0.54 | 51.7±1.3 | 9.7±0.7 |
| P value | <0.02 | <0.01 | >0.05 |

Values are means ± SE.

[0038] In summary, preliminary results indicate that soy products inhibit the s.c. growth of LNCaP tumor in SCID mice, possibly via induction of apoptosis, and inhibition of angiogenesis and proliferation.

[0039] Isoflavones or lignans can alleviate menopausal-related symptoms such as hot flashes and osteoporosis as well as alleviate symptoms associated with menstruation. This is further believed to be due to their estrogenic activity. It is believed that the improved composition described here will alleviate these symptoms even more effectively.

[0040] Also, isoflavones positively affect various cardiovascular-related conditions, including heart disease, cholesterol (saponins also positively affect cholesterol), angiogenesis and other vascular effects. It is believed that the improved composition will produce results for these cardiovascular conditions at least as beneficial as those hitherto known and at a reduced cost.

[0041] As explained earlier, isoflavones, lignans, and saponins are known to individually positively affect various neurological and immunological symptoms. It is believed that the improved composition will result in alleviating neurological and immunological symptoms at least as well as those compounds hitherto known and at a reduced cost. Moreover, it would be expected that some synergism would arise out of the combination described herein.

[0042] The improved composition may be administered orally, parenterally, for instance, subcutaneously, intravenously, intramuscularly, intraperitoneally, by intranasal instillation or by application of an aerosol spray to mucous membranes, or to the skin by an ointment or a cream.

[0043] Administering the improved composition may be done with any suitable carrier, in solid or liquid dosage form such as tablets, capsules, powders, soft gels, solutions, suspensions, emulsions, ointments, or creams. The improved composition may also be administered as a food supplement or as a food ingredient.

[0044] The amount of the improved composition administered will vary depending on the person, the mode of administration, and the desired result. An effective amount is expected to be 10 mg to 2000 mg/per dose.

Example 2 Tablet Manufacture

[0045] The composition provided for in this patent may be used to prepare tablets or other dosage forms. An example of a capsule preparation is provided in Example 2. The higher the concentration of the active component, the easier it is to form a tablet or emulsion. This leads to an added ability to incorporate other dietary nutrients. An example would be to prepare a phytochemical tablet which incorporates calcium and vitamin E as a supplement to maintain bone

health and/or reduce post menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes. In an example of this embodiment, a 600 mg dry compression tablet was prepared containing a total of 125 mg of isoflavones concentrate (50 mg isoflavone compound). Included in the tablet formulation was a source of calcium and magnesium.

[0046] Dry compression tablets were produced by first blending the following ingredients: 4 kg of the improved composition (39.83% isoflavones), 1.91 kg sorbitol, 0.095 kg magnesium stearate, and 13.11 kg dicalcium phosphate in a 120 quart capacity Hobart mixer. This blend of ingredients was then dry compressed at 1 ton pressure with a Stokes BB2 simple press into tablets having a total weight of 600 mg containing 125.53 mg of the improved composition and therefore 50 mg of total isoflavones.

[0047] Alternatively, a phytochemical concentrate may be provided in a single dosage form, a skin cream or as a food ingredient added to conventional food in amounts from 10 mg to 2000 mg/per dose, the purpose of which is to exert a positive effect on health and well being. These benefits include: cancer prevention, estrogen and sex hormone related maladies, inhibition of the pituitary-thyroid-gonadotrophic axis, alcohol dependency reduction, modulation of the cardiovascular, immune and nervous systems, antiviral effects and analgesic effects.

Example 3

[0048] Two-piece gelatin capsules were produced by filling the receiving end of the empty size "0" capsules with 0.106 g of the improved composition (44.35% isoflavones) and closed with the capping end, providing a capsule containing 47.2 mg of total isoflavones.

Example 4

[0049] A comparison between various sources of phytochemical preparations is given in Table 4. It is readily seen that the phytochemical components of the composition of the "Isoflavone Concentrate" of this invention is substantially higher than the corresponding amounts in the natural vegetable materials. Notably, the amount of glycone isoflavones and saponins are over 100 times more concentrated compared to the food source and over twenty times more concentrated compared to the germ of the plant which naturally concentrates these phytochemicals. Comparison of the "Isoflavone Concentrate" of this invention to other concentrates shows that the isoflavone fraction predominates in these latter products, reducing the amount of other healthful phytochemicals. Additionally, the extraction methods of these other products employ techniques which modify the components, particularly the isoflavones, so that they are not identical to the substances found in the natural vegetable material (U.S. Pat. No. 5,637,562).

[0050] One version of the improved composition was compared to other previously described compositions. The results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Comparative Products to the Invention

| Product Example | Isoflavone Glycosides in Product (mg/g) | Isoflavone A glycones in Product (mg/g) | Genistein/Daidzein Ratio | Lignans (mg/g) | Saponins (mg/g) | Phenolic Acids (mg/g) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Improved composition | 401.0 | 3.37 | 1.06 to 1 | 0.2 | 460.7 | 25.47 |
| Soybean | 1.748-2.776 ^a | 0.044 ^a - 0.075 | 1.59 - 2.7 | NA | 0.9-3.2 ^b | |
| Soy Flour (defatted) | 1.969 ^a | 0.045 ^a | 3.58 | 0.0013 | | 2.870 ^c |
| Soy germ | 24.32 ^d | 0.85 ^d | | NA | 16.7-1.98 ^b | NA |
| Product ^e patent (PTI) | NA | 2.5-6.5 ^e | 0.5 - 3.5 | NA | NA | NA |
| Product ^f patent (PTI) | NA | 5.1-14.7 ^f | 0.433 - 3.48 | NA | NA | NA |
| Product ^g patent (PTI) | NA | 1.7-3.5 ^g | 0.66 - 2.86 | NA | NA | NA |
| PTI product ^h | NA | 970 | 12.8 | NA | NA | NA |
| PTI product ⁱ | NA | 640 | 2.0 | NA | NA | NA |
| Soy Molasses (dried) | 27.6 | 0.1 | 1.37 | NA | NA | 5.788 |
| Novogen ^j | 0.0 | 550 | 1-1.7 to 1 | NA | NA | NA |

^a Wang H. and Murphy P.A., J. Agric. Food Chem 1994, 42, 1666-1673.^b Anderson R.L. and Wolf W.J., J. Nutr 125:581S-588S, 1995^c Seo A. and Morr C.V., J. Agric. Food Chem 1984, 32, 530-533.^d Soy LifeTM promotional literature^e WO 95/10530, PCT/US94/10697^f WO 95/10512, PCT/US94/10699^g WO 95/10529, PCT/US94/10696^h NCI paperⁱ Novogen promotional literature

Example 5

[0051] The improved composition, containing the glycoside forms of isoflavones, has as one aspect an improved solubility at body temperature over the previously described compositions containing the aglycoside forms.

[0052] Separate solutions (0.02% in distilled water) were made for genistein, genistin, daidzein, daidzin, and isoflavone concentrate in volumetric flasks. Samples were then placed in a 37°C water bath for 17 hours, followed by rapid filtration through a 0.2 micron syringe-type filter to remove particulates. Filtered samples were then analyzed for isoflavone concentration by HPLC. Results are tabulated as shown in Table 5.

Table 5.

| Differential Solubility of Isoflavone Glycosides vs. Aglycones | | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Isoflavone sample | Genistein (ppm) | Genistin (ppm) | Daidzein (ppm) | Daidzin (ppm) |
| Genistein | 7.42 | | | |
| Genistin | | 33.89 | | |
| Daidzein | | | 3.64 | |
| Daidzin | | | | 48.51 |
| Isoflavone Concentrate | 0.492 | 30.075 | 0.672 | 37.69 |

The glycoside forms, genistin and daidzin, are at least 4.57 and 13.32 fold higher in concentration at 37°C than their corresponding aglycone forms, respectively.

[0053] The modifications made to the isoflavones are to remove the carbohydrate attached to the isoflavone moiety. This modification renders the isoflavone less soluble in water. Maintenance of the natural modification, glycosylation, enhances solubility. This fact is shown in the comparative solubility chart of Table 5. This chart shows that the genistin isoflavone is 4.6 times higher and the daidzin isoflavone is 13.3 times higher than the corresponding non-glycosylated form. Higher solubility can lead to better bioavailability to intestinal organisms. The glycosylation does not inhibit absorption in the gut because the intestinal microflora convert the glycone form to the aglycone form before absorption occurs.

Example 6 Extraction of Lignans from Flax

[0054] Lignans can be readily extracted from flax using this following method.

[0055] 978 g of defatted flax meal (F1) was extracted with 2000 g of 85% ethanol at 40°C for 10 minutes, forming a slurry. The resulting slurry was filtered and extraction was repeated twice with a total of 6000 g of ethanol.

[0056] The ethanolic fraction was then evaporated under vacuum at 70°C, resulting in an aqueous fraction of 1186 g. The aqueous fraction was combined with 1000 g of water and mixed.

[0057] The mixed sample was then ultra-filtered through a 5000 molecular weight cutoff membrane, resulting in a 767 g permeate fraction and a retentate fraction of 1283 g.

[0058] The retentate fraction was freeze-dried, resulting in a 27.84 g sample (F2).

[0059] The 767 g permeate fraction at 50°C was fed to a 35 ml bed volume, XAD-4 resin column at a rate of 10 ml/min. The column effluent was collected and dried, resulting in a 14.8 g sample (F3). XAD-4 is a trademark for an absorbent resin, available from Rohm & Haas.

[0060] The column was then eluted with four bed volumes (140 ml) of 70% ethanol at 50°C. The eluent sample was evaporated under vacuum at 70°C and dried, resulting in a 1.79 g sample (F4). The four fractions were then analyzed for their lignan content, measured as the concentration by weight of secoisolariciresinol. As Table 6 shows, this extraction method enriches lignan concentration.

Table 6

| LIGNAN CONCENTRATIONS AS SECOISOLARICIRE SINOL | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| FRACTION | F1 | F2 | F3 | F4 |
| SECO. CONC. (mg/g) | 2.3 | 1.9 | 4.8 | 13.4 |
| PHENOLIC ACID | | | | |

[0061] While the present invention has been disclosed in terms of the preferred embodiment in order to facilitate a

better understanding of the invention, it should be appreciated that the invention can be embodied in various ways without departing from the principles of the invention. Therefore, the invention should be understood to include all possible embodiments, modifications, and equivalents to the described embodiment which do not depart from the principles of the inventions as set out in the appended claims.

5 [0062] The isoflavones may be in a substantially glycosylated form.

Claims

- 10 1. A composition from a plant matter in which the composition is enriched in at least two phytochemicals selected from isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins and phenolic acids, the phytochemicals optionally being in substantially native form.
- 15 2. A composition according to claim 1, in which at least one of the selected phytochemicals comprises at least 10% by weight of the composition.
3. A composition according to claim 2, of which at least 70% by weight is constituted by the selected phytochemicals.
- 20 4. A composition according to claim 3, of which at least 80% by weight is constituted by the selected phytochemicals.
5. A composition according to claim 4, of which at least 90% by weight is constituted by the selected phytochemicals.
6. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein:-
 - 25 the isoflavones, when present, are present in an amount from 5% to 90% by weight;
 - the lignans, when present, are present in an amount from 1% to 70% by weight;
 - the saponins, when present, are present in an amount from 5% to 70% by weight; or
 - the phenolic acids, when present, are present in an amount from about 1% to 70% by weight.
- 30 7. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein:-
 - the ratio of isoflavones to lignans present is in the range from 1000:1 to 1:50;
 - the ratio of isoflavones to saponins present is in the range from 1:10 to 10:1;
 - the ratio of isoflavones to phenolic acids present is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100;
 - 35 the ratio of lignans of saponins present is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100;
 - the ratio of lignans to phenolic acids present is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100;
 - the ratio of saponins to phenolic acids present is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100; or
 - the ratio of catechins to phenolic acids present is in the range from 100:1 to 1:100.
- 40 8. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein:
 - any isoflavones present are selected from genistein, daidzein, glycitein, biochanin A, formononetin, and natural modifications thereof;
 - any lignans present are selected from matairesinol, secoisolariciresinol, lariciresinol, isolariciresinol, nordihydroguaiaretic acid, pinoresinol, olivil, and precursors of enterolactone and enterodiol and natural modifications thereof;
 - any saponins present are selected from tomatine, soyasapogenols A, B, C, D, E and F, soysaponin, alfalfa-saponin, ginsengoside fraction 3 and 4, medicagenic acid, hederagenin, glycyrrhizin digitonin, quillaja saponin, lucernic acid, zahnac acid, and natural modifications of these compounds;
 - 50 any phenolic acids present are selected from chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, ferulic acid, gallic acid, sinapic acid, syringic acid, vanillic acid, coumaric acid, cinnamic acid, gentisic acid, salicylic acid, hydroxybenzoic acid and hydroxyphenylacetic acids and derivatives thereof; or
 - any catechins present are selected from catechin, epicatechin, gallo catechin, and epigallocatechin.
- 55 9. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the plant matter is one or more matter selected from soy, red clover, kudzu, flax, alfalfa, tea, and cocoa.
10. A composition according to claim 9, wherein the soy is selected from soybean, soy foods, soy molasses, soy whey,

soy protein, and soy flour.

11. A product for oral delivery, comprising a composition according to any preceding claim in a form suitable for oral delivery.
12. A product according to claim 11, wherein the product is in a form selected from tablets, capsules, pills, concentrates, powders, liquids, and added food ingredients.
13. A product according to claim 12, comprising a tablet comprising:
 - a. the plant matter composition; and
 - b. a filler selected from sorbitol, lactose, cellulose and dicalcium phosphate.
14. A product according to claim 13, wherein the product comprises from 15% to 25% by weight of the plant matter composition and from 65% to 85% by weight of the filler.
15. A product according to any one of claims 11 to 14, which also includes a dietary supplemental nutrient selected from dicalcium phosphate, magnesium stearate, calcium citrate, calcium malate, other calcium sources, vitamins and minerals.
16. A product according to claim 15 when appendant to claim 13 or 14, wherein the product comprises
 - a. from 15% to 25% by weight of the plant matter composition;
 - b. from 60% to 84% by weight of the filler; and
 - c. from 1% to 25% by weight of the dietary supplemental nutrient.
17. A product according to claim 12 comprising a capsule including
 - a. a predetermined dosage of the plant matter composition; and
 - b. a gelatin capsule.
18. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 17, which contains from 10 milligrams to 2000 milligrams of the plant matter composition per item of product.
19. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 18, formulated for the treatment of breast cancer, skin cancer or colon cancer, and containing a therapeutically effective amount of the plant matter composition.
20. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 18, formulated for the treatment of migraine headache or dementia in a subject, and containing a therapeutically effective amount of the plant matter composition.
21. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 18, formulated for reducing alcohol dependency in a subject, and containing a therapeutically effective amount of the plant matter composition.
22. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 18, formulated for reducing bloodstream cholesterol, reducing the risk of coronary heart disease, or modulating blood lipid profiles in a subject, and containing a therapeutically effective amount of the plant matter composition.
23. An oral delivery product according to any one of claims 11 to 18, formulated for reducing or preventing hot flushes, osteoporosis, sleep disorders, vaginal dryness or premenstrual syndrome in a subject, and containing a therapeutically effective amount of the plant matter composition.
24. A composition made by the process comprising the steps of:
 - a. extracting a defatted material from a group of vegetable matter consisting of protein, meal, whey, molasses, solubles and germs in a solution including an alcoholic solvent to produce a slurry;
 - b. filtering the slurry of step (a) to produce an alcoholic fraction;
 - c. evaporating the alcoholic fraction of step (b) to produce an aqueous fraction;
 - d. ultrafiltering the aqueous fraction of step (c);

- e. feeding a permeate of step (d) through a resin column; and
- f. collecting an effluent from the column after a wash.

5 25. A composition according to claim 24, which includes the further step of preparing the effluent of step (f) in a form which is suitable for administering orally, the form being taken from a concentrate, dried powder, capsule, pellet, and pill.

10 26. A composition according to claim 24 or 25, wherein step (c) includes the step of diluting the aqueous fraction; and/or wherein the solution of step (a) is about 70% ethanol and extraction is carried out at about 40°C; and/or wherein the evaporation of step (c) is carried out under vacuum about 70°C.

15 27. A composition according to claim 24, 25 or 26, which includes the added step of fractionating the effluent to select at least one of the group isoflavones, lignans, saponins, catechins, and phenolic acid, for use in the preparation of the composition according to any one of claims 1 to 10.

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